

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 168519
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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
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INFO USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168519

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PAGE 02 STATE 168519

FOR OECD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, PGOV, TU, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI-TURKEY RELATIONS

1. ADMINISTRATION CURRENTLY SEEKING CONGRESSIONAL REPEAL OF ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. WE ALSO WANT TO REVITALIZE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY AND IN RESPONSE TO CURRENT TURKISH FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES HAVE SOUGHT TO BE SYMPATHETIC AND SUPPORTIVE WITHIN LIMITED MEANS AVAILABLE TO US.

2. TO SOME EXTENT, TURKEY HAS BEGUN TO OPEN ITS FOREIGN POLICY HORIZON BEYOND TRADITIONAL PRE-EMINENCE OF NATO, WESTERN EUROPE AND BILATERAL US-TURKEY RELATIONSHIP (COMMENTS ON ECEVIT TRIP TO USSR SEPT-71). IN OUR VIEW TURKISH SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE ELEMENTS IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY NEED NOT BE INIMICAL TO US INTERESTS, NOR NEED IT PRECLUDE FUTURE TURKEY-WESTERN COOPERATION. TO THIS END WE HAVE ENCOURAGED TURKS TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER REGIONAL POWERS WHOSE INTERESTS OFTEN PARALLEL OUR OWN.

3. WE DO NOT WANT AT THIS TIME TO ASK SAUDIS OR KUWAITIS FOR FINANCIAL OR OTHER SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY. WE FEEL IT IS PROPER ROLE OF TURKS TO MAKE SUCH PROPOSALS.

HOWEVER WE FEEL IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR JIDDA AND KUWAIT IN COURSE OF NORMAL CONTACTS, TO ENCOURAGE SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS TO CONSIDER HOW THEIR INTERESTS COULD BE SERVED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 168519

OR DAMAGED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY AND DOMESTIC POLITICS. WE BELIEVE IT IS IN THEIR INTEREST AS WELL AS OURS THAT TURKEY PLAY A STABILIZING ROLE, AS A MODERATE, BASICALLY WESTERN-ORIENTED STATE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

4. EMBASSIES SHOULD BE GUIDED BY FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

--USG EXPECTS TO SECURE REPEAL OF EMBARGO BUT THIS BY ITSELF WILL ONLY PERMIT US TO BEGIN RESTORATION OF STRONG-US-TURKEY TIES. A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT ISSUES REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED IN TIME BUT WE WILL PATIENTLY SEEK TO REVITALIZE US-TURKEY TIES.

--TURKEY, WHICH APPARENTLY WISHES TO REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON THE UNITED STATES, IS UNLIKELY IN ANY CASE TO RETURN TO STATUS QUO ANTE OF FASHIONING ITS FOREIGN POLICY ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY AROUND NATO. FACT THAT WE IMPOSED THE EMBARGO, COMBINED WITH INTERNAL TURKISH SITUATION, MAKE SUCH DEVELOPMENT UNLIKELY.

--THUS WE EXPECT TURKEY, WHILE REMAINING FUNDAMENTALLY

WESTERN ORIENTED, TO RESTRUCTURE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ARAB WORLD, THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, AND THE SOVIET BLOC.

--IN LIGHT OF TURKEY'S GEOPOLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE MIDDLE EAST, SAG AND GOK MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER DEVELOPING A MORE INTENSE DIALOGUE WITH THE TURKS. WE BELIEVE TURKEY WILL BE RECEPTIVE TO NEW DEPARTURES IN ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND WE WOULD PREFER THAT ANY SUCH CHANGE BE ALONG LINES COMPATIBLE WITH INTERESTS OF US AND ITS ARAB FRIENDS.

--WE ARE NOT PROPOSING ANY SPECIFIC INITIATIVES AT THIS TIME. WE HAVE STRESSED TO TURKS THAT OUR CAPACITY TO PROVIDE DIRECT BILATERAL SUPPORT IS LIMITED. WE HAVE ENCOURAGED TURKS TO SEEK AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF EARLY
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PAGE 04 STATE 168519

THIS YEAR AND ALSO TO DIVERSIFY THEIR SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

--WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR OECD COUNTRIES AND MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES TO KEEP EACH OTHER INFORMED ABOUT THEIR RESPECTIVE VIEWS AND PLANS REGARDING TURKEY, AND WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE CURRENT STATE OF SAUDI AND KUWAITI THINKING ON THIS MATTER. VANCE

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